

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a device connected to a network, said device being configured to handle both a first control command sent from the network and a second control command sent from an operation unit being independent of the network, and said device having a capability of controlling oneself as well as a capability of being controlled by a different device connected to the network, said method comprising:

selecting one of a first mode and a second mode, said second control command having a priority over the first control command in the first mode, and both the first and second control commands being executable in the second mode;

upon selecting the first mode, the second control command being received to execute it, and the first control command being rejected; and

upon selecting the second mode, any of the first and second control commands being received to execute it, wherein said different device is configured to be registered as a registered device, said method further comprising:

in the first mode, said device being configured to reject a control command from the registered device;

even in the second mode, said device being configured to reject a control command if this command is not sent from the registered device, the rejection of the control command being independent of a password; and

in the second mode, said device being configured to execute given processing corresponding to a control command if this command is sent from the registered device.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein one of the first and second modes is configured to be set by a user of the device.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the device includes a network interface configured to receive the first control command, said method further comprising:

upon power-off in the first mode, the network interface is set in a power-off state or in a power saving state.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said device is a visual device.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a device connected to a network, said device being configured to handle both a first control command sent from the network and a second control command sent from an operation unit being independent of the network, and said device having a capability of controlling oneself as well as a capability of being controlled by a different device connected to said network, said method comprising:

selecting one of a first mode and a second mode, said second control command having a priority over the first control command in the first mode, and both the first and second control commands being executable in the second mode;

upon selecting the first mode, the second control command being received to execute it, and the first control command being rejected; and

upon selecting the second mode, any of the first and second control commands being received to execute it, wherein said different device is configured to be registered as a registered device, said method further comprising:

in the first mode, said device being configured to reject a control command if this command is not sent from the registered device, the rejection of the control command being independent of a password;

also in the first mode, said device being configured to execute given processing corresponding to a control command if this command is sent from the registered device; and

in the second mode, said device being configured to execute given processing corresponding to a control command.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein one of the first and second modes is configured to be set by a user of the device.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the device includes a network interface configured to receive the first control command, said method further comprising:

upon power-off in the first mode, the network interface is set in a power-off state or in a power saving state.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said device is a visual device.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus connectable, via a serial bus, to a device being configured to provide one or more control commands, said apparatus comprising:

a network interface configured to receive the control command, said network interface being configured to execute processing corresponding to the received control command; and

a device controller having a first mode in which a self control is preferential, and a second mode in which a control by another is acceptable, said device controller including:

a first portion configured to reject the control command from said device in the first mode, such that said apparatus can control oneself but cannot be controlled by said other device,

a second portion configured to accept the control command from said device in the second mode, such that said apparatus can control oneself and can be controlled by said device,

a third portion configured to register a prescribed said device as a registered device,

a fourth portion configured to reject the control command from said device in the first mode,

a fifth portion configured to reject the control command from an unregistered device, even in the second mode, the rejection of the control command being independent of a password, and

a sixth portion configured to execute given processing corresponding to the control command sent from the registered device.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein one of the first and second modes is configured to be set by a user of the apparatus.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:  
upon power-off of the apparatus in the first mode, the network interface configured to be set in a power-off state or in a power saving state.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said apparatus is a visual device.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus connectable, via a serial bus, to a device being configured to provide one or more control commands, said apparatus comprising:  
a network interface configured to receive the control command, said network interface being configured to execute processing corresponding to the received control command; and  
a device controller having a first mode in which a self control is preferential, and a second mode in which a control by another is acceptable, said device controller including:  
a first portion configured to reject the control command from said device in the first mode, such that said apparatus can control oneself but cannot be controlled by said device,  
a second portion configured to accept the control command from the said device in the second mode, such that said apparatus can control oneself and can be controlled by said device,  
a third portion configured to register said device as a registered device,  
a fourth portion configured to reject the control command from an unregistered device in the first mode, the rejection of the control command being independent of a password,  
a fifth portion configured to execute given processing corresponding to the control command sent from the registered device, even in the first mode, and  
a sixth portion configured to execute given processing corresponding to the control command in the second mode.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein one of the first and second modes is configured to be set by a user of the apparatus.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising:  
upon power-off of the apparatus in the first mode, the network interface configured to be set in a power-off state or in a power saving state.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said apparatus is a visual device.